

IRVIN RODRIGUEZ



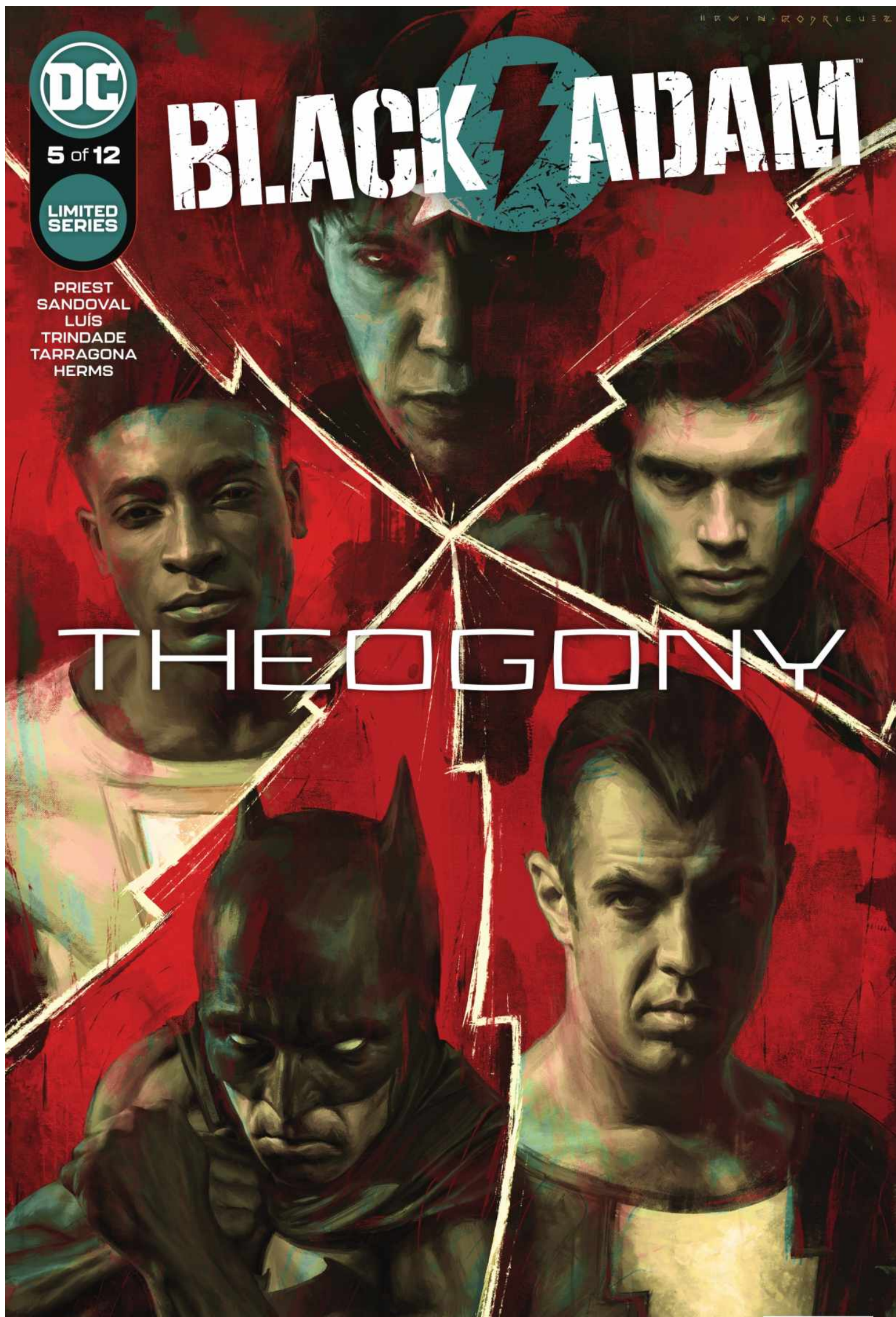
5 of 12

LIMITED
SERIES

PRIEST
SANDOVAL
LUIS
TRINDADE
TARRAGONA
HERMS

BLACK ADAM™

THEOGONY



A STORY OF TWO GENERATIONS OF GOTHAM—
STARRING THE **BAT-FAMILY** AND THE CITY'S **FIRST VIGILANTE!**

WRITTEN BY
EVAN NARCISSE

ART BY
ABEL

COVERS BY
GREG CAPULLO



THE OFFICIAL PREQUEL TO THE VIDEO GAME!

BATMAN:
GOTHAM
KNIGHTS
GILDED
CITY

OCTOBER



EACH ISSUE COMES
WITH A CODE FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE IN-GAME ITEM*

*Terms Apply. See



...?!



YOU'RE NOT MR. SARGENT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

MR. SARGENT IS OLD.

HE IS NOT.



YES HE IS.

I SELL HIM THIN MINTS EVERY SUNDAY!

ALL RIGHT.

HE'S OLD.



HE IS NOT. IT'S A TRICK.

MR. SARGENT WOULDN'T TRICK ME!

HE WOULD. HE HAS.



HE'S A MAGICIAN.

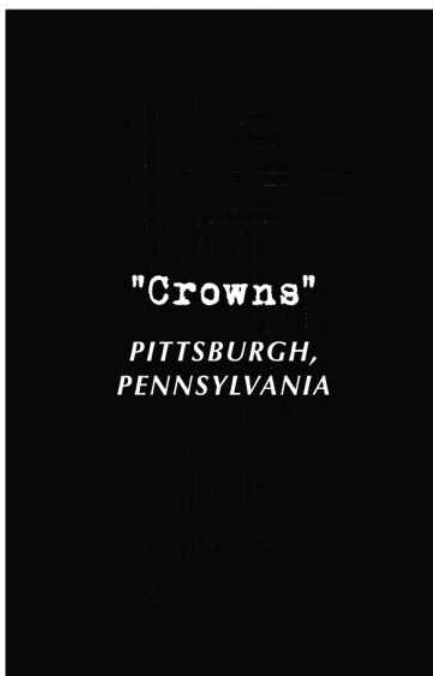
TRICKS ARE HOW HE MAKES HIS LIVING.

AND WHO ARE YOU?!

ME--?



I AM WAR.



"Crowns"

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



MINTS... THAT ARE THIN.

QUITE THE LUXURY, MR. SARGENT.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



THE NAME OF MY KING.

CRU-UNNCH

I WANT IT BACK.

CEASE THIS UNPRODUCTIVE ILLUSION--



MORE
THAN SEVEN
THOUSAND
YEARS AGO,
NOMMO, THE
IMMORTAL RULER
OF A DESTROYED
CIVILIZATION,
GREW
LONELY.

HE
CREATED
SEVERAL
ARTIFACTS OF
POWER, ONE OF
WHICH WAS
CALLED THE
RUBY OF
LIFE*.

NEARLY
A CENTURY
AGO, YOUR
PARENTS
DISCOVERED
THE RUBY IN
EGYPT.

IT WAS
THE FIRST
THING YOU,
THEIR NEWBORN
SON, EVER
TOUCHED. YOU
BONDED WITH
IT
INSTANTLY.

SEEKING
TO PROFIT
FROM
THE ARTIFACT,
YOU TOOK THE
NAME OF A
LONG-DEAD
AKKADIAN
KING...



...MY KING,

I AM NERGAL.

I AM WAR.

THE AKKAD...
MYTHICAL
PANTHEON
OF MESO-
POTAMIA.

NERGAL
WAS
THEIR
WAR
GOD...

WAR,
PLAGUE,
AND
THE
SUN--

--HUSBAND
TO
ERESHKIGAL,
GODDESS
OF
THE UNDER-
WORLD.

"MYTHICAL"...
HEH.

YOUR
POWER--

--DRAWN
FROM THE
DARK
MULTI-
VERSE...

THE
NTH
WORLD, AS
WE CALL
IT.

MYTHS
COME ALIVE
IN THE MIND
OF THE
SHARER, MR.
SARGENT,
IN OUR
CASE--

--YOUR
24TH
CENTURY
B.C.

WHEN
THE WIZARD
MAMARAGAN
BANISHED
THEO TETH-
ADAM...

...TO
BEYOND
THE
FARTHEST
STAR.

ALONG
HIS
JOURNEY,
HE
BREADED
US IN...

...AND
THE MIND
OF A
PRIMITIVE
MAN,
AWASH IN
FABLES AND
MYTH...

...BECAME
FERTILE
LAND FOR



FASCINATING...
YOU'RE
SAYING
ALIEN PARA-
SITES...

...CHOSE
TO
PATTERN
THEMSELVES
AFTER A
MYTH...

AS
LIKELY AN
EXPLANATION
FOR OUR
ORIGIN AS
ANY.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
FROM ME,
NERGAL?

A
KING IS
A LIVING
LAW.

RES
GESTAE
SARGONIS--



"SARGON,
KING OF THE
WORLD,
CONQUEROR
OF ELAM
AND
PARAHSHUM."

YOU
HAVE
STOLEN THE
ARTIFACT
FROM
EGYPT.

YOU
HAVE
STOLEN
THE NAME
OF OUR
KING.

I
HAVE
COME--



--TO
RECLAIM
BOTH.

HERE IS
A TRICK
FOR YOU,
HOMO
MAGI...

...SINCE
YOU SO
ADMIRE
OUR
KING--

--NOW
BECOME
HIM.

KINGS
ARE
MADE
BY GODS,
SORCERER.

FROM
THIS
DAY
FORWARD,
YOU--

--SHALL
EMBODY
ALL OF THE
VIRTUES
OF
OURS...

--Mmmphfffft--
I--I--

--I...AM
SARGON
OF
AKAD





"Shah Guy"

METRO EAST EMERGENCY DEPT.

WASHINGTON, D.C.





BLACK ADAM

2325

THEOGONY
CONCLUSION

PRIEST—script RAFA SANDOVAL, JORDI TARRAGONA, JOSÉ LUÍS & JONAS TRINDADE—art
MATT HERMS—color WILLIE SCHUBERT—lettering IRVIN RODRIGUEZ—cover
RAFA SANDOVAL & MATT HERMS, ARIEL COLON, JOSHUA "SWAY" SWABY

"Crash Course"

GIZA PLATEAU, EGYPT

HAVE
YOU
CALLED
HER YET?

NASSAR'S
WIFE...

NOT
NOW,
SHEP.

SHAKUR
NASSAR--
LEADER
OF KAHNDAQ'S
DEMOCRATIC
REFORM
MOVEMENT--

--GOT HIMSELF
DEAD A FEW DAYS
AGO.* EVERYBODY
ASSUMES THAT
WAS YOUR
DOING--

--GIVEN
YOUR
OBJECTION
TO DEMOC-
RACY--

*ISSUE #1.

--AND
YOUR
HISTORY
WITH HIS
WIDOW.

I'VE
BEEN
PREOC-
UPIED.

YOU'VE
BEEN
STALLING.

PATCH
ME
THROUGH
ON THE
ACC.*

CALL
HER,
THEO--

LATER,
SHEP. LET
ME SPEAK TO
THE PILOT...
BEFORE
IT'S TOO
LATE.

*AIR COMBAT
COMMAND.

IHSANULLAH--
THIS IS
THEO TETH-
ADAM.*

AS-
SALAAM-
ALAIKUM.

IHSAN...
LISTEN
TO
ME...

...YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
DO
THIS.

*TRANSLATED





"When"
GOTHAM
CITY



YES...
...I'M
LOOKING
AT IT
NOW.



ORACLE...
BLACK
ADAM...
KILLED
THE
PILOT.



...I'M
RUNNING
OUT
OF
REASONS
NOT TO
END
HIM.

BOOMING



BOY...
...ARE
MY EARS
BURNING.



THIS
HAS TO
STOP, WAYNE--
FUNDING THE
REBELS
IN
KAHNDQA.



YOU'VE BEEN
FUNDING THE
RADICALS AND
THEIR
DEMOCRATIC
MOVEMENT
IN MY
COUNTRY.



THANK
GOD YOU'RE
BROKE
NOW.



GOTTA
GO--
CALL YOU
BACK.



THEY'RE NOT
"RADICALS,"
THEO.
THEY'RE
PEOPLE.



MY PEOPLE.
IN A
SOVEREIGN
NATION.

ONE
THAT HAS
STRUGGLED
FOR
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
MERELY TO
SURVIVE.



OUR MIDDLE
EASTERN NEIGHBORS.
ALWAYS BICKERING
WITH US OVER
TRIBAL
NONSENSE--

--OVER
A PATCH
OF DIRT
THE SIZE
OF
BROOKLYN.



WAS IT
REALLY
NECESSARY
TO
KILL THAT
PILOT?

DEFINE
"NECESSARY."

HIS
OWN AIR
FORCE
WOULD HAVE
STOPPED
HIM--

BUT THEN
THERE WOULD
BE NO HONOR



YOU GRANTED
HIM A NOBLE
DEATH...YOUR
TWISTED SENSE
OF BENEVO-
LENCE--

THE MIDDLE
EAST IS THE
ANGRIEST SPOT
IN THE WORLD,
WAYNE. YOU
KNOW
THIS.

I
AM NOT A
RULER. I AM
A LIBERATOR.
BUT
LIBERATION
TAKES TIME

IT WILL
TAKE MANY
GENERATIONS
TO PREPARE
KAHNDQA FOR
SELF-RULE



FINANCING THE
RADICALS WILL
ONLY CREATE
ANOTHER
FAILED
STATE.

WHICH
BRINGS
US TO WHY
I'M HERE:
THE
AKKAD.

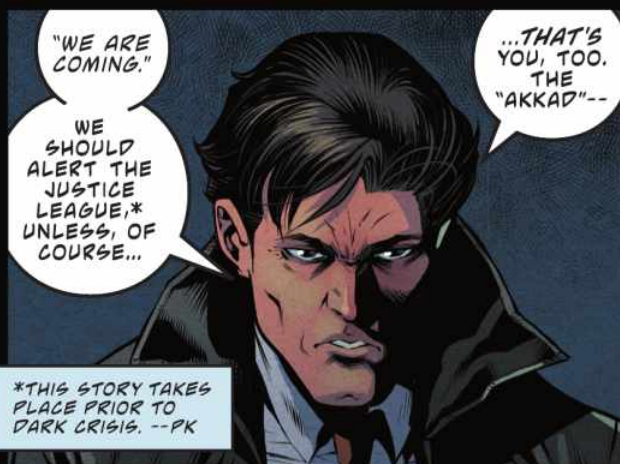


"AKKAD."

AS IN
AKKADIAN
EMPIRE...?
2350-2150
B.C.--?

IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT ALIEN
BACTERIA HAS
MODELED
ITSELF AFTER
MESOPOTAMIAN
GODS.

I WAS
SUMMONED
TO THEIR
ZIGGURAT IN
DEEP SPACE
AND GIVEN A
MESSAGE--



"WE ARE
COMING."

WE
SHOULD
ALERT THE
JUSTICE
LEAGUE,*
UNLESS, OF
COURSE...

*THIS STORY TAKES
PLACE PRIOR TO
DARK CRISIS. --PK

...THAT'S
YOU, TOO.
THE
"AKKAD"--



--AND THIS
ANCIENT
"PLAGUE."

IT'S A
REASONABLE
GUESS THIS IS
ALL JUST YOU
GASLIGHTING
ME.



THEO...

...WHEN
I COME
FOR
YOU--

--YOU
WON'T
NEED TO
GUESS.



"WHEN."

TOO
MANY
WILLING TO
GIVE YOU
A PASS,
ADAM.

BUT
WE BOTH
KNOW WHO
YOU ARE...
WHAT YOU
ARE.

AS
FOR
YOUR
RASH--



--MIGHT BE
ALLERGIC TO
THE NTH METAL
IN THAT RING
OF YOURS.

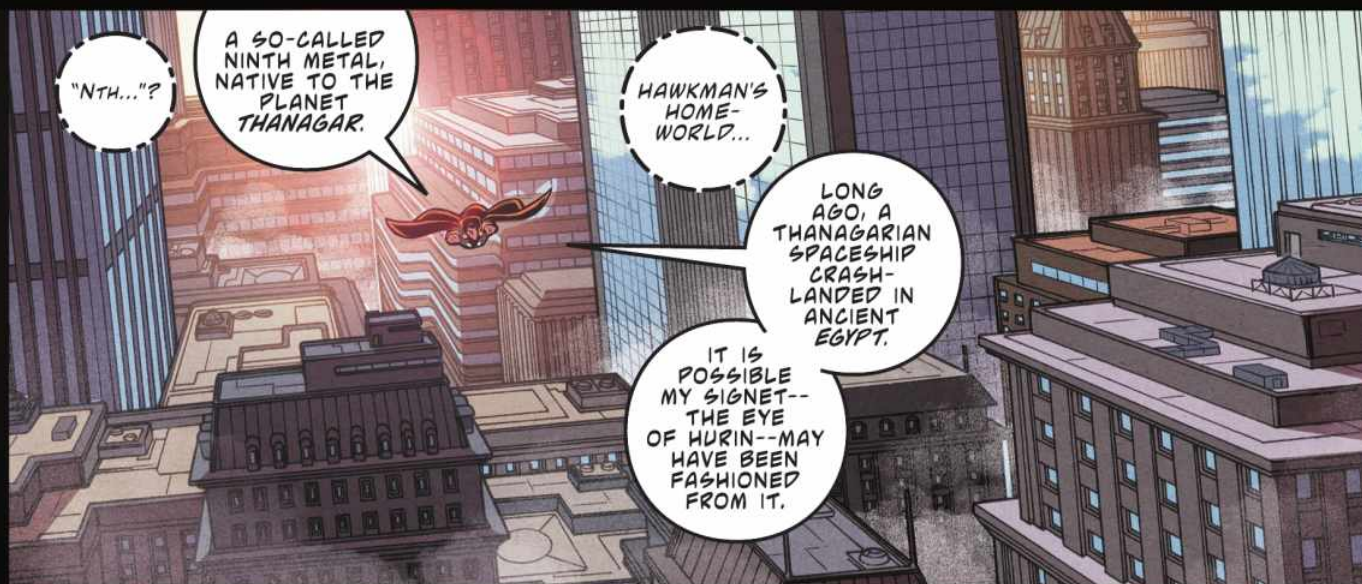
MY
ENTRY
DOOR
SCANS FOR
EXPLO-
SIVES.



I'LL
KEEP AN
EYE OUT
FOR "THE
AKKAD."

...

...NTH...



"NTH..."?

A SO-CALLED
NINTH METAL,
NATIVE TO THE
PLANET
THANAGAR.

HAWKMAN'S
HOME-
WORLD...

LONG
AGO, A
THANAGARIAN
SPACESHIP
CRASH-
LANDED IN
ANCIENT
EGYPT.

IT IS
POSSIBLE
MY SIGNET--
THE EYE
OF HURIN--MAY
HAVE BEEN
FASHIONED
FROM IT.



I SEE
YOU'RE
POWERED
UP, BACK IN
"BIG TALK"
MODE...

NTH METAL
IS SOMEHOW
TIED TO THE
DARK MULTI-
VERSE.

I NOW HAVE
THIS RING FROM
TWO DISTINCT
TIME PHASES:
PRESENT AND
FUTURE.



THE
ROYAL
SURGEON, DR.
GAMIL,
SUSPECTS
COMBINING
THE TWO VERSIONS
OF THE
ARTIFACT--

--MAY
CANCEL OUT
THE METAL'S
TOXICITY AND
PREVENT
THE PLAGUE
FROM
RECURRING.



GAMIL.
THE
WITCH
DOCTOR.

THE
OXFORD-
EDUCATED
WITCH
DOCTOR,
YES.

I AM
HEADING
BACK TO
WASHINGTON.
LOCATE
MALIK.



"LOCATE"?
THIS KID
HAS
NO LIFE,
THEO.

ONLY
TWO PLACES
HE COULD
BE, AND ONLY
ONE
OF THEM
COUNTS...



...ANCIENT
BABYLONIAN
PARASITES
IN A
TEACUP...

...EGYPTIAN
VIRUS...

...SPACE
MEASLES...



...WHATEVER
THE HELL
BLACK ADAM
HAD...

...I'VE
GOT IT
TOO.

AND
ONCE HE
POWERED
DOWN--



--IT
STOPPED
HIS
HEART...
KILLED
HIM.

MAYBE THIS HUMAN
MONOCLONAL ANTI-
BODY COCKTAIL
WE USED ON
HIM--

YO--
MALIK--!



--TROI'S
GOING
BALLISTIC,
MAN.

MAJOR
TRAUMA
JUST
CAME
IN--

--SADDLE
UP, BOYEE!



GREAT.
JUST
GREAT.

TELL
DR. TROI
I'M ON
MY
WAY...



--?
OH, HI,
JASMIN!

HEY,
TERRENCE.

JUST
CAME BY
TO CHECK

OUCH.
MIGHT
BE A
MINUTE.

HE'S
ON HIS
WAY TO
A
TRAUMA--







...AT THE ADMIN DESK...



...PARKING LEVELS THREE THROUGH FIVE...



...CLINIC HOURS ARE...



...ALL PATIENTS MUST...



...HOW'S HIS CRIT...?

...PREP A VENOUS CARDIAC SNARE...

WAIT... DID I...?

...ISCHEMIA TO DISTAL ORGANS...

HENNN-REE--!



...DID I JUST SEND... BLACK ADAM...
...TO MY HOUSE--?!

...RIGHT-SIDED MAIN-STEM BRONCHUS...

HENNN-REE--!



K'K'RRRAA-KOOOMM!





"Lessons"

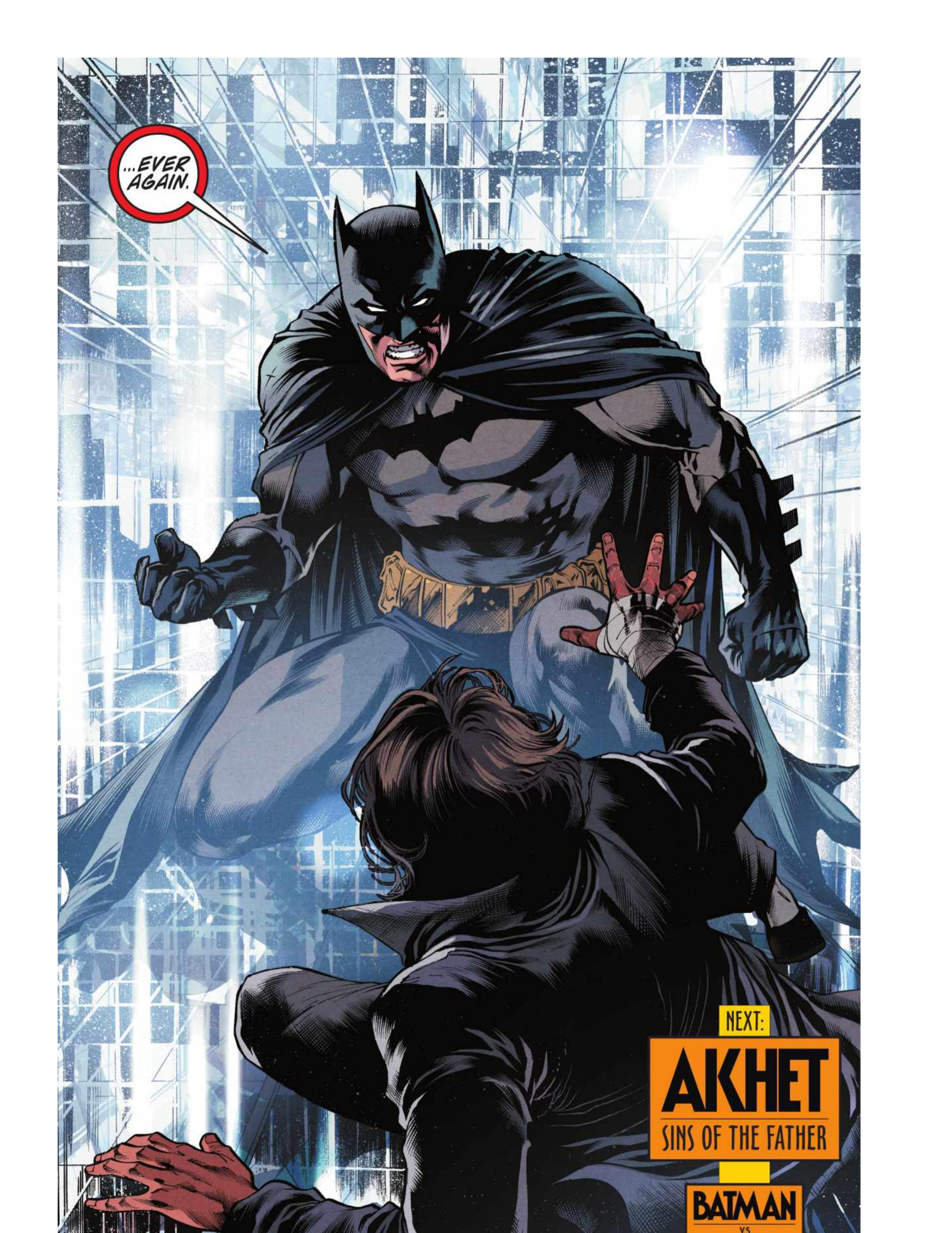
LINWOOD,
WASHINGTON, D.C., SOUTHEAST





"Terminal Aphasias"
ELSEWHERE



A comic book cover featuring Batman in a dynamic pose, looking down at a character whose back is to the viewer. The background is a stylized, blue-toned cityscape with a grid-like pattern. Batman is wearing his iconic suit with a yellow utility belt. The character in the foreground has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket. A speech bubble from Batman says "...EVER AGAIN." in a red-bordered circle. In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow box with the text "NEXT: AKHET SINS OF THE FATHER" and another yellow box with "BATMAN" and "VS." below it.

...EVER
AGAIN.

NEXT:

AKHET

SINS OF THE FATHER

BATMAN

VS.

© & TM DC



BLACK ADAM

IN THEATERS OCTOBER 21



MEET DC'S
MOST POWERFUL
ANTIHERO IN THESE
CLASSIC COMICS
STORIES!

DC NATION **SPOTLIGHT ON**

THE RIDDLER YEAR ONE

Earlier this year, Matt Reeves's *The Batman* compelled audiences worldwide with an invigorating new take on the pop culture icon, Gotham City, and its heroes and villains—and anyone who left the film walked away wanting to learn more about Paul Dano's aptly enigmatic take on the Riddler.

Well, great news: the origin story of how forensic accountant Edward Nashton became an unsettling criminal mastermind will be told in the six-issue bimonthly DC Black Label series *The Riddler: Year One*, written by Dano himself and illustrated by Steven Subic, with covers by comics legend Bill Sienkiewicz.

With *The Riddler: Year One* #1 out this month, take a look at Subic's interior artwork as Edward Nashton's deadly and disturbing journey begins.



DON'T MISS
THE RIDDLER: YEAR ONE #1,
ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

DC BLACK LABEL
AGES 17+

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